



The Society for California Archaeology

c/o SCA Business Office, 1692 Mangrove Ave. #153, Chico, CA 95926 (530) 342-3537

Office of the President

March 13, 2012

Ramiro Villalvazo, Director
United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
E-mail address: rvillalvazo@fs.fed.us

Re: Application for the OHMVR Education & Safety Grant by the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program, Grant Application Number G11-02-12-S01

Dear Mr. Villalvazo,

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of support for the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) application for your agency's Education and Safety Grant. Our organization, the Society for California Archaeology (SCA), has been working closely with CASSP now for many years to offer site stewardship training to volunteers through our federal and state agency partners. The program is a great success, and has placed volunteer stewards on state and federal lands throughout California. Their goals—to provide agencies with trained stewards capable of monitoring the impacts of public use, vandalism, and looting on our significant cultural resources, while getting the local public involved in protecting their area's cultural heritage—is of critical importance at a time when agency budgets are dwindling and agency staff are being cut. The CASSP is a cost efficient and effective means for agencies to manage their cultural resources in a responsible way during these difficult economic times.

I personally have trained CASSP volunteers as part of their program at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in Lower Lake. Anderson Marsh is home to millennia of continuous indigenous occupation, some deposits being associated with the Borax Lake cultural pattern, which dates 8,000 to 10,500 BP. This park is scheduled for closure under the state budget, and at the time, the CASSP stewards are all that stand between massive looting and protection.

I have also worked both with CASSP volunteers and several seasons of their field data and observations at the Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area (CSVRA) near Tracy. Their work proved invaluable in locating buried features of a massive industrial mining operation, brick kiln factory, and multiple town sites, while at the same time providing planning data that allowed CSVRA trail designers to locate off-highway vehicle trails away from sensitive areas. CSVRA is a very popular and active OHV park near urban areas, and through the help of CASSP, important cultural resources are monitored by local stewards invested in education and outreach, while OHV users continue to have access to the vast majority of the recreation area.

I believe that CASSP performs a necessary and extremely valuable service to state and federal agencies, and to OHV areas in particular. I strongly urge you to award CASSP funding under the Education and Safety Grant I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding my support for CASSP. Please feel free to contact me at (707) 664-2734 or at michael.newland@sonoma.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Newland', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Michael Newland, M.A., RPA
President-elect, Society for California Archaeology
Staff Archaeologist, Anthropological Studies Center
Sonoma State University